

5

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCT REGIONALIZATION

10

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application serial number 09/295,080 filed April 20, 1999, ^{now U.S. Patent # 6,312,106} entitled "Method And Apparatus For Transferring Information Between A Replaceable Consumable And A Printing Device," assigned to the assignee of the present invention.

15

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

20

The present invention relates to methods of regionalizing a product for specific markets for the purposes of language localization, insuring compliance with local laws and standards, or theft prevention, and apparatus for accomplishing the methods.

25

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A variety of situations exist in which it is desirable to "regionalize" a product, distinguishing that product from otherwise identical products elsewhere.

30 Regionalization can allow a product to automatically configure related software, such as drivers and user manuals, to be displayed in a local language. Regionalization can help discourage the use of consumable items related to the product that are not intended for use in that region (due to non-compliance with local standards, or local intellectual property rights issues). "Regionalization" may also be used on a local